

(1) The Executive Office of the President shall furnish the applicable financial disclosure report form to the nominee. It shall forward the completed report to the designated agency ethics official at the agency where the nominee is serving or will serve, or it may direct the nominee to file the completed report directly with the designated agency ethics official.

(2) The designated agency ethics official shall complete an accelerated review of the report, in accordance with the standards and procedures in paragraph (b) of this section. If that official concludes that the report reveals no conflict of interest under applicable laws and regulations, the official shall:

(i) Attach to the report a description (when available) of the position to be filled by the nominee;

(ii) Personally certify the report by signature, and date the certification;

(iii) Write an opinion letter to the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, personally certifying that there is no unresolved conflict of interest under applicable laws and regulations, and discussing:

(A) Any actual or apparent conflicts of interest that were detected during the review process; and

(B) The resolution of those real or apparent conflicts, including any specific commitment, ethics agreement entered under the provisions of subpart H of this part, or other undertaking by the nominee to resolve any such conflicts. A copy of any commitment, agreement, or other undertaking which is reduced to writing shall be sent to the Director, in accordance with subpart H of this part; and

(iv) Deliver the letter and the report to the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, within three working days after the designated agency ethics official receives the report.

NOTE: The designated agency ethics official's certification responsibilities in § 2634.605(c) are nondelegable and must be accomplished by him personally, or by the agency's alternate designated agency ethics official, in his absence. See § 2638.203 of this chapter.

(3) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall review the report and the letter from the designated agency ethics official. If the Director is

satisfied that no unresolved conflicts of interest exist, then the Director shall sign and date the report form. The Director shall then submit the report with a letter to the appropriate Senate committee, expressing the Director's opinion whether, on the basis of information contained in the report, the nominee has complied with all applicable conflict laws and regulations.

(4) If, in the case of any nominee or class of nominees, the expedited procedure specified in this paragraph cannot be completed within the time set forth in paragraph (c)(2)(iv) of this section, the designated agency ethics official shall inform the Director. When necessary and appropriate, the Director may modify the rule of that paragraph for a nominee or a class of nominees with respect to a particular department or agency.

§ 2634.606 Updated disclosure of advice-and-consent nominees.

(a) *General rule.* Each individual described in § 2634.201(c) who is nominated by the President for appointment to a position that requires advice and consent of the Senate, shall, at or before the commencement of the first Senate committee hearing to consider the nomination, submit to the committee an amendment to the report previously filed under § 2634.201(c) and transmit copies of the amendment to the designated agency ethics official referred to in § 2634.605(c)(1) of this subpart and to the Office of Government Ethics, which shall update, through the period ending no more than five days prior to the commencement of the hearing, the disclosure of information required with respect to receipt of:

(1) Outside earned income; and

(2) Honoraria, as defined in § 2634.105(i).

(b) *Additional certification.* In each case to which this section applies, the Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall, at the request of the committee considering the nomination, submit to the committee an opinion letter of the nature described in § 2634.605(c)(3) of this subpart concerning the updated disclosure. If the committee requests such a letter, the expedited procedure provided by § 2634.605(c) of this subpart shall govern review of

the updated disclosure, which shall be deemed a report filed for purposes of that paragraph.

§ 2634.607 Advice and opinions.

To assist employees in avoiding situations in which they might violate applicable financial disclosure laws and regulations:

(a) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall render formal advisory opinions and informal advisory letters on generally applicable matters, or on important matters of first impression. See also subpart C of part 2638 of this chapter. The Director shall insure that these advisory opinions and letters are compiled, published, and made available to agency ethics officials and the public. Good faith reliance on such opinions shall provide a defense to any penalty or sanction provided by this part for fact situations indistinguishable in all material aspects from those in the opinion.

(b) Designated agency ethics officials will offer advice and guidance to employees as needed, to assist them in complying with the requirements of the Act and this part on financial disclosure.

Subpart G—Penalties

SOURCE: 57 FR 11824, Apr. 7, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2634.701 Failure to file or falsifying reports.

(a) *Referral of cases.* The head of each agency, each Secretary concerned, or the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, as appropriate, shall refer to the Attorney General the name of any individual when there is reasonable cause to believe that such individual has willfully failed to file a public report or information required on such report, or has willfully falsified any information (public or confidential) required to be reported under this part.

(b) *Civil action.* The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any appropriate United States district court against any individual who knowingly and willfully falsifies or who knowingly and willfully fails to file or report any information required by filers of public reports under subpart B of

this part. The court in which the action is brought may assess against the individual a civil penalty in any amount, not to exceed \$10,000, as provided by section 104 of the Act.

(c) *Criminal action.* An individual may also be prosecuted under criminal statutes for supplying false information on any financial disclosure report.

(d) *Administrative remedies.* The President, the Vice President, the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, the Secretary concerned, the head of each agency, and the Office of Personnel Management may take appropriate personnel or other action in accordance with applicable law or regulation against any individual for failing to file public or confidential reports required by this part, for filing such reports late, or for falsifying or failing to report required information. This may include adverse action under 5 CFR part 752, if applicable.

§ 2634.702 Breaches by trust fiduciaries and interested parties.

(a) The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any appropriate United States district court against any individual who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of § 2634.407 of this part. The court in which the action is brought may assess against the individual a civil penalty in any amount, not to exceed \$10,000, as provided by section 102(f)(6)(C)(i) of the Act.

(b) The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any appropriate United States district court against any individual who negligently violates the provisions of § 2634.407. The court in which the action is brought may assess against the individual a civil penalty in any amount, not to exceed \$5,000, as provided by section 102(f)(6)(C)(ii) of the Act.

§ 2634.703 Misuse of public reports.

The Attorney General may bring a civil action against any person who obtains or uses a report filed under this part for any purpose prohibited by section 105(c)(1) of the Act, as incorporated in § 2634.603(f). The court in which the action is brought may assess against the person a penalty in any